

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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Ant Hill
Wayne Smith

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February 11, 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

All ARA offices
2/12

Human Rights

The President has stressed this Administration's strong commitment to the promotion of human rights. The Department of State must help implement this goal of US foreign policy.

To carry out a policy which is constructive for furthering both human rights and our other national objectives, we need an overall human rights strategy and internal mechanism for helping assure balanced decisions in this area. To that end, I have taken the following actions:

-- Asked the Deputy Secretary to establish an ad hoc Human Rights Coordinating Group, administered by D/HA and to include, as appropriate, representatives from P, T, L, H, S/P, IO, PM, EB, AID, and the regional bureaus-- initially at the Deputy Assistant Secretary level. The HRCG will be the forum for coordination of human rights policymaking within the Department.

-- Requested the Policy Planning Staff, in consultation with D/HA and cooperating with other interested bureaus, to formulate a broad human rights policy for my review.

In addition, I am now asking that regional bureaus develop strategy papers focused on key human rights problems under their purview and tactics for dealing with them. Following the first meeting of the Human Rights Coordinating Group, detailed instructions will be issued by the Executive Secretary.

Cyrus Vance

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
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